

In the claims:

1 1. (Amended) A device for detecting particles on a windshield
2 a motor vehicle with a radiation source which emits optical rays onto the
3 windshield with a photodetector which receives a portion of the rays emitted onto
4 the windshield, and with a control unit, which manages the radiation source and
5 analyzes the rays received by the photodetector characterized in that the
6 radiation source is positioned outside the field of vision of a driver of the vehicle
7 and is aligned in such a way that the light rays from the radiation source strike
8 the windshield in the area of the field of vision, and that the photodetector is
9 pointed at the area of the windshield which the optical rays from the radiation
10 source strike.

1 2. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
2 the radiation source is formed as a light-emitting-diode.

1 3. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
2 the photodetector includes several receiving units.

1 4. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 3, wherein
2 the receiving units are formed as optoelectronic arrays.

1 5. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 3, wherein
2 means are located in the direction of propagation of the beams reflected from
3 the particles in front of the receiving units for focusing the beams.

1 6. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 5, wherein
2 the means for focusing the beams are formed as lenses.

1 7. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
2 the radiation source emits optical rays with a wavelength of about 350 nm to 800
3 nm.

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1 8. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
2 the radiation source emits optical rays with a wavelength in the infrared range.

1 9. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
2 the control unit manages the radiation source in such a way that the type of
3 particles can be determined from the rays received by the photodetector.

4 10. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
5 the control unit analyzes the rays received by the detector so that the type of
6 particles can be determined.

1 11. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
2 the device is an integral part of an interior light module in the vehicle.

3 12. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
4 the device is an integral part of a rearview mirror module in the vehicle.

5 13. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein
6 the device is connected over a bidirectional data bus to a superordinate control
7 unit in the vehicle.

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